

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of enabling an end-user to locally process content information at a quality level remotely adjustable by a service provider.

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2. The method of claim 1, wherein the end-user receives a higher quality in return for a higher fee.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the quality is adjustable via a data network.

10 4. The method of claim 3, wherein the end-user has an apparatus for the local processing that is connectable to the data network for the remote adjusting.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein:

- the local processing comprises playing out of the content information; and

15 - the quality level of the playing out is remotely adjustable by the service provider.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein:

- the content information comprises video data;

- the quality level relates to at least one of a color depth and a resolution of the video data when rendered.

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7. The method of claim 1, wherein:

- the local processing comprises locally storing the content information; and

- the quality of the storing is remotely adjustable by the service provider.

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8. The method of claim 7, wherein the adjusting of the quality of the storing comprises regulating a storage capacity available to the end-user.

30 9. The method of claim 8, wherein the regulating of the storage capacity comprises providing end-user access to a selected portion of a local storage.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein:

- the local storage comprises a HDD; and
- the storage capacity is regulated by controlling a mechanical component of the HDD.

5 11. The method of claim 9, wherein:

- the local storage comprises a solid state memory; and
- the storage capacity is regulated by controlling an address range of the memory.

12. The method of claim 9, wherein:

10 - the local storage comprises an ODD; and

- the storage capacity is regulated by controlling a mechanical component of the ODD.

13. The method of claim 8, wherein the regulating of the storage capacity comprises controlling a data format of the content information during the storing.

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14. A CE apparatus for processing content information, wherein:

- the apparatus enables a user to select a specific one of multiple quality levels of the processing; and
- the apparatus comprises a controller for setting the specific quality level in responsive to a signal supplied by a third party.

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15. The apparatus of claim 14, comprising an input for receiving the signal from a server via a data network

16. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein:

25 - the processing comprises user-controllable recording of the information content;

- the apparatus comprises a storage for the recording;
- the specific quality level determines a specific storage capacity available to the user; and
- the controller is coupled to the storage for setting the specific storage capacity under control of the signal.

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17. The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the storage comprises at least one of: a HDD, an ODD and a

solid state memory.

18. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein:

- the processing comprises playing out the content information;
- 5 - the apparatus comprises a circuit for rendering the content information;
- the controller is coupled to the data rendering circuit for setting the specific quality of the rendering under control of the signal.

19. The apparatus of claim 18, wherein:

- 10 - the content information comprises video data;
- the specific quality determines at least one of a resolution of the rendered content information and a color depth of the rendered content information.

20. A method of doing business comprising remotely modifying a quality of a functionality of a CE

15 apparatus of an end-user through software control via a data network.